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Sixty-sixth year

Letter dated 25 August 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you of the statement of 19 August 2011, issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba, which refers to Cuba's inclusion, once again, in the United States Department of State's spurious list of alleged "State sponsors of international terrorism", for the sole purpose of discrediting our country and continuing to justify the cruel and condemned policy of embargo against Cuba (see annex).

I would like to request that this letter and its annex be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 107, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Pedro **Núñez Mosquera**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 25 August 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba

Havana, 19 August 2011

On 18 August, the Department of State included Cuba, for the thirtieth time, in the spurious list of alleged "State sponsors of international terrorism", for the sole purpose of discrediting our country and continuing to justify the cruel and condemned policy of embargo against Cuba.

The United States Government, which historically has practiced State terrorism, extrajudicial killings, kidnapping, assassinations by drone, torture and illegal detentions, which has established secret prisons, which is responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians through its wars of occupation and conquest in Iraq and Afghanistan, which systematically bombs sovereign States such as Libya, does not have any moral basis or right to judge Cuba, which has an unblemished record in the fight against terrorism and has also consistently been a victim of that scourge.

The United States Government acts as if it had not protected, on a permanent basis, the self-confessed criminal Luis Posada Carriles, whom it has not wished to prosecute on charges of terrorism, despite having ample evidence. Posada Carriles, together with Orlando Bosch Ávila, who received a presidential pardon from George Bush Senior, is the perpetrator of the horrific bombing of a Cuban civilian aircraft in flight, which cost the lives of 73 innocent persons. He is also directly responsible for the death of an Italian tourist, Fabio Di Celmo, during the bombing attacks on Cuban tourist facilities in 1997. Today, Posada Carriles walks the streets of Miami freely and with impunity, after his acquittal in a legal farce in El Paso, Texas.

At the same time, as irrefutable proof of its double standards, the United States Government keeps our five counter-terrorism fighters in prison unjustly and punishes them for saving the lives of Cuban and United States citizens and those of other countries.

As a result of terrorist acts that were organized, funded and carried out from United States territory, in many cases with the full complicity of the United States Government, 3,478 Cubans have died and another 2,099 have been maimed.

Political manipulation of such a sensitive issue as counter-terrorism is also offensive to the memory of the victims of the criminal acts of 11 September 2001, events that prompted an offer of solidarity and unconditional assistance from our Government and people.

Cuba demands that the United States Government punish the real terrorists who now reside in United States territory, free the Five Heroes and put an end to the policy of embargo and hostility towards our country, which threatens the legitimate interests of both peoples.